



PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Meeting. The Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB) met May 18, 2016, in the Jessie Parker Building on the State Capitol complex.

Issues from Governor's Working Group. Several considerations for system reform were brought before the Governor's Working Group on Justice Reform during 2015. The topics listed below were not part of the final recommendations presented to the Governor, but were referred to the PSAB for further consideration. The topics included:

- 1) Robbery mandatory minimums
- 2) Powder/crack cocaine penalty sentencing disparities
- 3) Penalty enhancements for kidnappings
- 4) Risk assessments for drug traffickers
- 5) Elimination of mandatory minimums for low-level drug offenses
- 6) Elimination of sentence enhancement for second or subsequent drug offenses
- 7) Low-level drug thresholds currently charged as intent to deliver
- 8) Prison alternatives for low-level drug offenders
- 9) Decriminalization of marijuana possession

In addition to the issues brought before the Working Group, the Board also discussed the topic of driver's license suspensions for reasons unrelated to driving records. During the discussion, several board members suggested different aspects of the topic that could be studied, such as the social and financial impacts of license suspension.

The Board selected three considerations to designate as priorities for the PSAB to study and consider in 2016: 1) Powder/crack cocaine sentencing disparities, 2) Creating and funding alternatives to prison for any low-level offense, and 3) Driver's license suspensions for reasons unrelated to driving records.

Updates. The Board is considering applying to participate in the National Criminal Justice Reform Project sponsored by the National Criminal Justice Association and the National Governors Association. In fall 2016, up to 20 state teams will convene to discuss key areas of criminal justice reform. Based on that meeting and other activities, up to five states will be selected for in-depth planning and implementation assistance over the next several years.

Next Meeting. The Board is scheduled to meet Wednesday, September 21, 2016, at a location to be determined.

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